50 Years of Collaboration

Ontario Council of University Libraries

Annual Report 2016-2017

50th Anniversary
1967•2017

Collaborate. Innovate. Deliver

OCUL

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OCUL at 50

Welcome to the OCUL Annual Report for academic year 2016-2017. We are pleased to provide you with this snapshot of the services, activities, and initiatives of the Ontario Council of University Libraries and how these member-driven efforts support the research, teaching, and learning missions of Ontario's universities.

During 2016-2017, OCUL, its staff, and its members spent time looking back at past successes and looking forward to a hopeful future. On February 22, 1967, the constitution of the then - "Ontario Council of University Librarians" was adopted, following an initial meeting at McMaster University of founding members on January 19 that same year. Since then Ontario's university libraries have worked together to enhance information services in the province and beyond through collaborative planning, advocacy, assessment, research partnerships, collective purchasing, and most recently, the development of Scholars Portal, our shared digital information infrastructure.

Thus appropriately in 2017, OCUL celebrated its 50th anniversary and OCUL's Scholars Portal commemorated its 15th year of service.

Clockwise from top: OCUL Directors Group, 1989, 2008, 2017.

Highlights from 2016-17 include:

OCUL Scholars Portal Journals loaded its 50 millionth article. Offering easy access to articles on a wide range of academic subjects, all discoverable through a bilingual search interface, Scholars Portal Journals provides researchers, faculty, and students at Ontario universities with scholarly content from both subscription and open access publications.

Scholars Portal Books also continued to expand in 2016-17—it now offers 250,000 books from major publishers—and also provided a beta release of its redeveloped e-books platform. Two other Scholars Portal services—GeoPortal, a tool for using hosted geospatial data, and Dataverse, a repository for research data—also launched redeveloped platforms in 2016-17.

Through funding and technical assistance, OCUL facilitated two digitization projects that highlight the wealth of information resources created in Ontario's past. The Geo Community—one of 13 member-led initiatives that foster knowledge among colleagues and support OCUL's strategic goals—completed much of the work on its historical topographic maps of Ontario digitization project. In addition, the Government Information Community completed a first round of digitization of historical documents from the Government of Ontario and began a second. These are currently housed in the Internet Archive and will eventually be available via Scholars Portal Books.

Collaborations both with member institutions and other Canadian research organizations resulted in a commitment to work together to enhance data management in Canada with CARL, the Canadian Association of Research Libraries; a partnership with Queen's University Library and the Canadian Opinion Research Archive (CORA) to make CORA polling data freely available to the public via OCUL Scholars Portal's <odesi> service; an agreement with Wilfrid Laurier University to make polling data from Ipsos Canada freely available via <odesi> and Dataverse; and a digital preservation pilot with Lakehead University Library.

That's a lot to accomplish in a year's time, but OCUL's definitely not taking a break in 2017-18. We will be moving forward into the next 50 years with enthusiasm, and a collaborative mindset.

Wayne Jones, OCUL Chair and University Librarian, Carleton University

From Station Wagons to the Cloud

The 1960s saw the growth of post-secondary education in Canada as the postwar baby boomers came of age and higher education became increasingly accessible. Ontario's university libraries were called upon to support increased research and student learning needs and it became clear the existing infrastructure was at its limit.

In 1967 the heads of Ontario's university libraries came together to find a solution. The Ontario Council of University Librarians* was charged with developing:

- a joint bibliographic centre
- an inter-campus delivery system for interlibrary loans
- access to easy and barrier-free interlibrary loans for faculty members and graduate students
- a common user card for faculty members and students entitling them to use off the university libraries in Ontario
- collaborative collection development at the graduate program level.

In 1970 OCUL member libraries agreed to provide the inter-library loan of books at no charge to the requesting institution. These materials were delivered to all corners of the province, in station wagons of the Inter-University Transit System (IUTS) (launched in 1967).

In 1974, an agreement, unprecedented in Canada or the United States, allowed Ontario students and faculty members to borrow directly from any OCUL library. This direct borrowing agreement was expanded Canada-wide **in 2002**. This and OCUL's inter-library loan service, now know as RACER (Rapid Access to Collections by Electronic Requesting) are still used by students, faculty and researchers across Ontario's universities today.

As technology and the nature of post-secondary education has changed over the decades, OCUL has responded. The growth of electronic information resources in the **1990s** called for libraries to consider new ways of acquiring, managing the providing access to this content. A significant part of OCUL's work from the 90s to today involves facilitating library collection development through consortial licensing of resources.

In 2002 OCUL, with University of Toronto Libraries as service provider launched Scholars Portal, OCUL's technological infrastructure. Scholars Portal now provides a suite of service including data and eresources platforms, virtual reference, interlibrary loan, scholarly publishing hosting and cloud storage.

Ontario's university libraries have been working together over five decades to deliver better services to their communities. OCUL continues to support sharing resources, increasing access, and learning from each other, to ensure this collaborative work into the future.

1960s

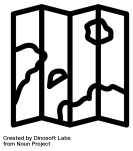
1967 - Inter University Transit System (IUTS): Universities transport books between campuses via station wagon.

1970s

1970 - Inter Library Loan Agreement: OCUL libraries agree to provide inter-library loan of books and photocopies of articles. RACER is born 32 years later to enable digital requesting of resources across OCUL.

1974 - Inter-University Borrowing Project (IUBP): An agreement, unprecedented in Canada or the United States, allowing Ontario students and faculty to borrow directly from any OCUL library.

1974 - UNICAT/TELECAT: A co-operative cataloguing service that enabled shared access to catalogue records across all OCUL members, reducing costs in cataloguing new acquisitions.



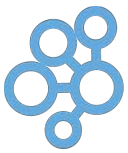
1975 - **OCUL Maps Group established:** One of the earliest collegial groups focusing on a particular functional area, map librarians who operate programs to share duplicate maps and negotiate consortium purchases of maps and geospatial data.

1990s

Consortial Purchasing and Licensing of Electronic Resources: Support teaching, learning and research and provide saving through actual discounts and wider access to electronic resources.

1992 - Academic Journals Access Project: program to enhance the infrastructure for inter-institutional co-operation and sharing of resources at a time of severe funding constraints.

2000s



2002 - Scholars Portal: A shared technology infrastructure and shared collections for all 21 universities in Ontario.

2002 - Canadian University Reciprocal Borrowing Agreement: OCUL joins with Canadian university libraries in regional consortia to extend in-person borrowing privileges to students, faculty and staff from across the country.

2010s

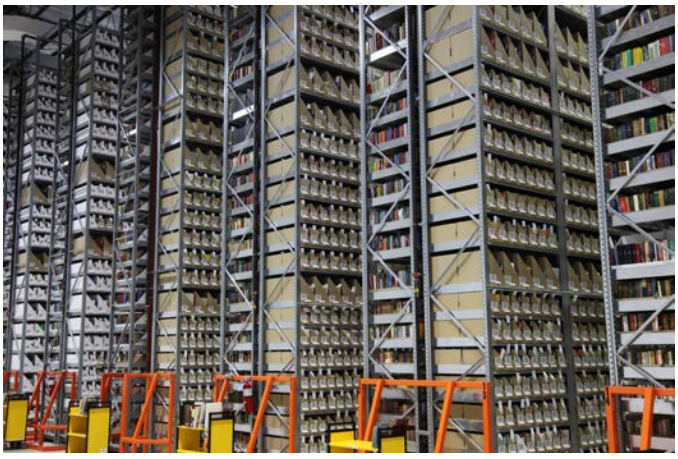
2011 - Scholars GeoPortal: Online infrastructure that provides access to large scale geospatial data sets, and search, discovery and analysis tools making data readily available to Ontario researchers.

2012 - Dataverse: Scholars Portal begins hosting a repository for research data collected by researches at Ontario Universities.

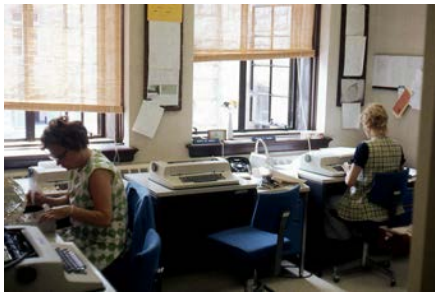
Supporting access to Canadian scholarship: Agreement with Association of Canadian University Presses and eBound Canada to provide access to comprehensive ebook collection.

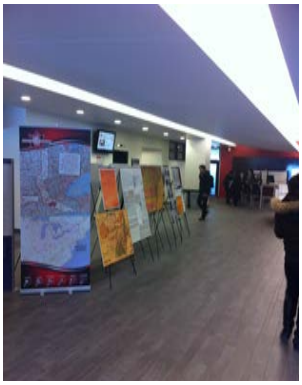
2013 - Trusted Digital Repository: Scholars Portal certified by Center for Research Libraries (CRL) as a Trustworthy Digital Repository for e-journal content.

2015 - Ontario Library Research Cloud: Preservation storage for Ontario's scholarly material.



Clockwise from top: *McMaster Media Wall outside The Lewis & Ruth Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship in Mills Memorial Library, (2015) McMaster University. Photo by Ron Scheffler for McMaster University. CC BY-SA 2.0; York University Libraries, (1990) Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections, York University Computing and Network Services fonds, ASC41188.; Microfilms (1967), Queen's University Library, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0; University of Waterloo Library Geospatial Centre (2012), University of Waterloo Library CC BY-NC 2.0; Colorado Circulation System (1971), Queen's University Library, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0; Toronto Keep @ Downsview facility, (2016), G. Belray for University of Toronto Libraries; Colarado C-Dek Terminal (1971), Queen's University Library, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.*





Clockwise from top: *"Lakehead Campus," Archives & Digital Collections at Lakehead University Library, accessed April 3, 2018, https://digitalcollections.lakeheadu.ca/document/353.; Computer and scanner at the circulation desk, Wilfrid Laurier University Library (1985), Wilfrid Laurier University Archives & Special Collections; Main Card Catalogue (1967), Queen's University Library, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0; Computer terminals, Wilfrid Laurier University Library (2004), Wilfrid Laurier University Archives & Special Collections; Display in Dana Porter Library on Six Nation's land claims, (2013), University of Waterloo Library, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.; Reading room in the William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections in Mills Memorial Library at McMaster University (2012), Ron Scheffler, CC-BY-SA; Music Listening area, Waterloo Lutheran University Library (1971) Wilfrid Laurier University Archives & Special Collections Music; Shelflist Conversion (1971), Queen's University Library, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.*

OCUL Information Resources

OCUL licences and negotiates the purchase of an extensive list of electronic resources on behalf of its members.

179 eresources products licensed by on behalf if its member libraries

$14.7M US Dollars spent on OCUL managed resources

1.97% was the average increase for renewed resources

$1.7M Canadian Dollars spent in on OCUL managed resources

By the Numbers

Type of Product	Total CDN$	Total US$	Total # e-resources	Consortial Discount
Data	$153,781	$38,659	7	N/A
Database	$822,284	$5,795,745	80	8% to 74%
E-Book	$232,272	$1,353,450	20	5% to 30%
Index	$98,039	$3,188,249	39	0% to 30%
E-Journal	$43,155	$4,297,173	24	2% to 60%
Media	$380,833	$93,398	6	10% to 60%
Tool	$11,440	$20,013	3	20%
TOTAL	**$1,741,804**	**$14,786,687**	**179**	

OCUL licensed resources for 2016-2017

New collections, new uses

OCUL libraries are providing an increasingly diverse array of electronic resources to Ontario's university communities. OCUL is expanding its collective licensing from ejournal and ebook content to other educational resources including as data collection and streamed media content.

Data

In 2017 OCUL partnered with the City of Mississauga to extend access to municipal geospatial data collections for all OCUL member institutions, supporting the collection's use as an academic resource.

OCUL has subsequently develop a model data license that will continue to be used for other consortial licensed data and is available to OCUL members as references for their own licensing programs.

The City of Mississauga collection for 2016 is now available through the Scholars GeoPortal (http://geo.scholarsportal.info).

Open Access

OCUL continues to work with publishers and regional and national consortial colleagues to provide increased access to scholarly materials via open access resources in a number of formats.

The Canadian heritage collection *Frontier Life: Borderlands Settlement and Colonial Encounters* is available to libraries and education institutions across Canada thanks to a partnership between the publisher Adam Matthew, 18 academic institutions and various national and regional library consortia, including OCUL. This collection of primary source material previously unavailable in digital form, is also open to the broader community through public libraries.

Text and Data Mining

OCUL libraries are also responding to the changing research needs and approaches of Ontario's academic community. OCUL is actively working with publishers to open up Ontario's collections for non-traditional uses such as text and data mining.

Stewardship through Partnership

OCUL is committed to preserving access to its shared collection. Our eresources team work with publishers to secure license terms that ensure OCUL can preserve their content for future generations. University presses, academic societies and large scholarly publishers load their resources directly to Scholars Portal, OCUL's certified Trustworthy Digital Repository, for archiving. This stewardship is at no cost to the publisher.

Content Preservation

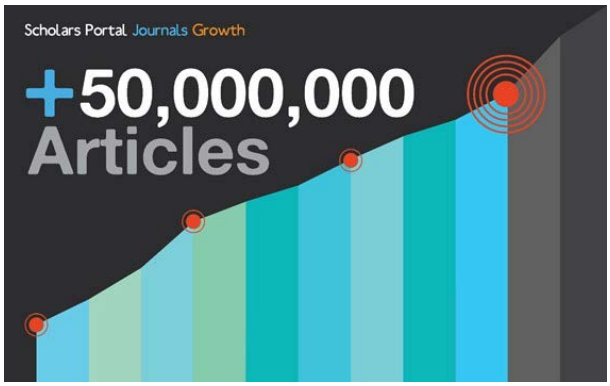
OCUL is considering ways to help its members preserve digital content though web archiving initiatives. A coordinated subscription to the Internet Archive's web archiving service Archive-It in 2017 sets a foundation for building expertise across the province and partnerships across Canada. This multi-consortial offering of Archive-It also reflects OCUL's ongoing work with the Internet Archive and the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL).

Scholars Portal

Scholars Portal provides information services for Ontario's university community through a shared technology infrastructure for OCUL member libraries, and access to OCUL's shared collections.

50,000,000 articles for Scholars Portal Journals

50 million articles in OCUL's 50th year!



Scholars Portal Journals grew out of a locally hosted journal platform first deployed at the University of Toronto Libraries in the 1990s. Since it became an OCUL service in 2002 with a modest collection of just over 1 million articles it has grown steadily to reach 50 million articles in the summer of 2017.

A unique resource built through a unique collaboration, Scholars Portal is one of the largest aggregations of scholarly content in the world and a critical preservation service for Ontario's universities, with nearly 70% of the articles stored for long-term preservation in our Trusted Digital Repository. Scholars Portal looks forward to exploring new ways of responding to emerging research methods such as data mining, on behalf of OCUL's member libraries.

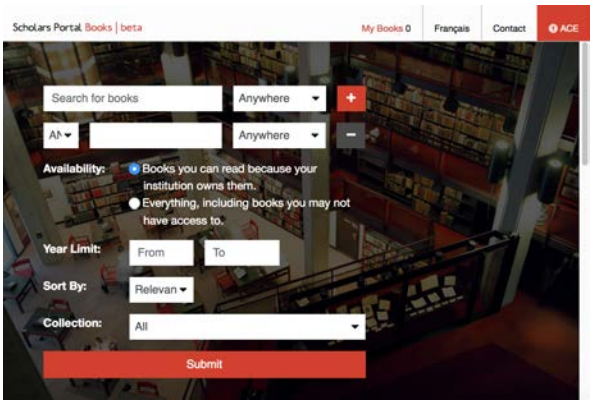
A New Scholars Portal Books

After 8 years of operation, and significant changes in the ebook landscape, the **Scholars Portal Books** platform is getting a facelift.

Following feedback from the OCUL community Scholars Portal Books has been completely redesigned from the ground up. A beta release of the platform became available in the summer of 2017 for testing by the OCUL community.

On completion the redesigned Scholars Portal Books will feature, intuitive browsing of collections on desktop and mobile devices, offline reading capability, and and admin tool, which will allow local eresource staff to generate title lists, MARC packages, and COUNTER-compliant stats on the fly. Authenticated users will also have access to OCUL's accessible format collections through the Accessible Content ePortal (ACE).

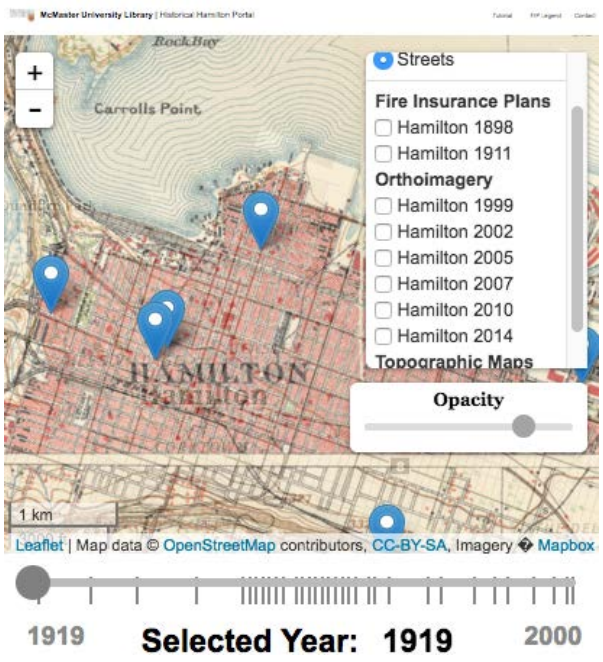
The beta release will be open to the public January 2018 with a full release scheduled for April 2018. The full release will make for a more accessible, and intuitive experience for Ontario's students, faculty and researchers, and will help OCUL libraries manage their access to OCUL's shared ebook collection.



Scholars Portal Books platform in beta.

Topographic Maps

OCUL Historical Topographic Maps Digitization project is an initiative to digitize and georeference over 1000 early-to-mid 20th century historical topographic maps covering the province of Ontario.



Topographic maps are heavily used by researchers interested in examining changes over time, such as urban sprawl, transportation patterns, diminishing woodlots, or shoreline erosion. Digitization has opened up this map collection to new uses. The maps can be viewed on OCUL's geospatial platform, **Scholars GeoPortal**, and can be download by individual researchers for use with digital research application such as ArcGIS Online.

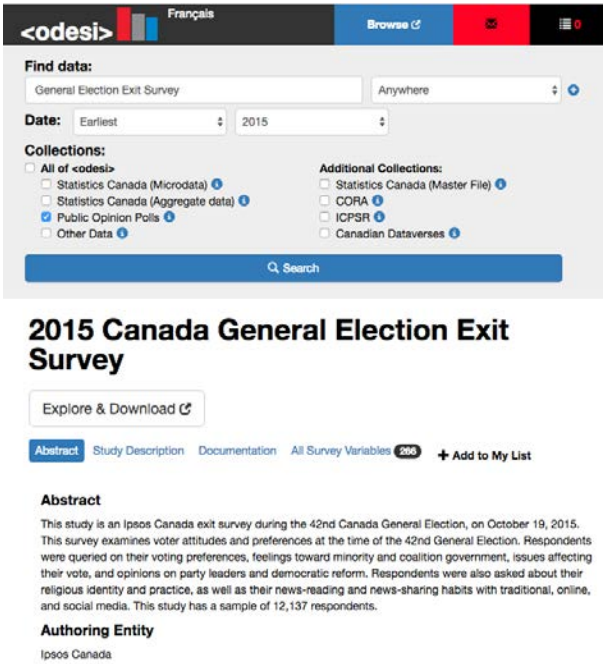
Since the collection's release McMaster University Library has integrated local maps into their Historical Hamilton Portal (http://library.mcmaster.ca/maps/aerialphotos/index.html). This portal allows users to find and access aerial photos, fire insurance plans and other cartographic materials for the Hamilton area. This collaborative digitization collection is already benefitting both local and OCUL researchers.

Open Access Polling Data

Scholars Portal Dataverse and ODESI platforms are OCUL's data repositories, offering storage, access and analysis of research data, social sciences and polling data for Ontario's university community.

In the last year Scholars Portal has added significant Open Access polling data collections to these platforms, thanks to partnership with OCUL member libraries.

Wilfrid Laurier University and Queen's University have both secured the rights to open important national and provincial polling data collections to anyone in the world through ODESI and Dataverse. Queen's new Angus Reid national polling data and Wilfrid Laurier's IPSO polling data collections were previously restricted to Ontario's universities. Now open to all, these opinion poll collections cover topics such as national and provincial politics, real estate buying habits, and Canadian heritage, identity, society, media, providing important access to our national and provincial character.



<odesi> 2015 Canada General Election Exit Survey, Wilfrid Laurier IPSOS polling data collection.

ONTARIO LIBRARY RESEARCH CLOUD

Permafrost

Secure and affordable Storage

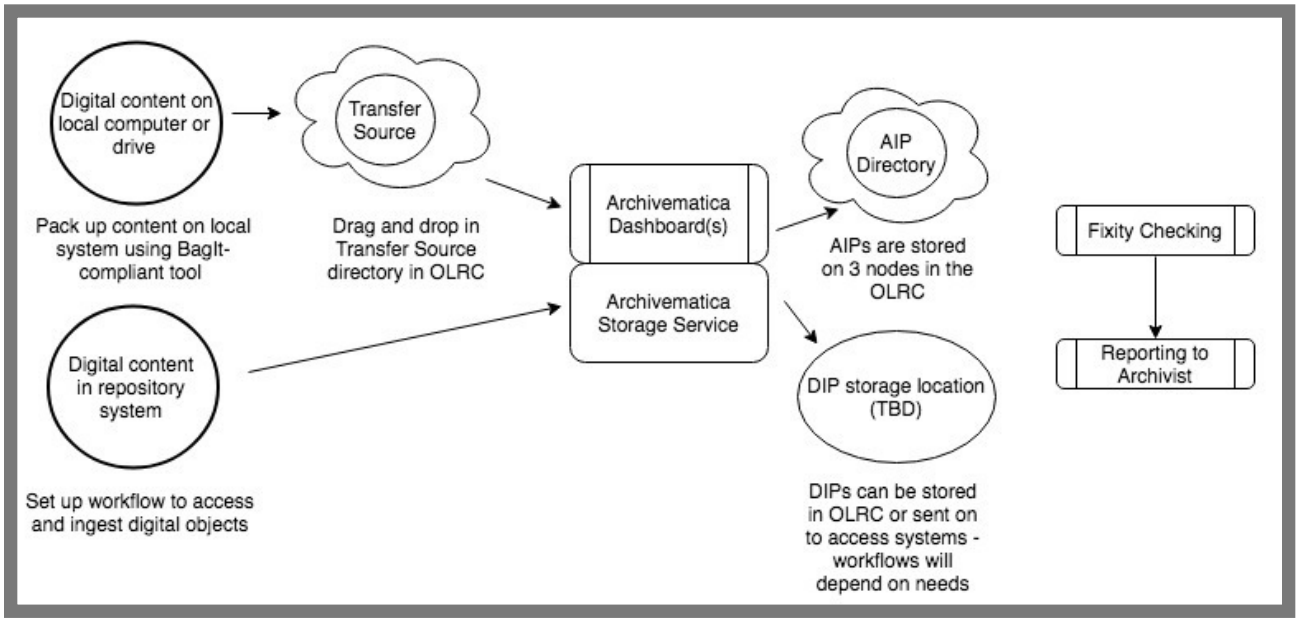
Ontario university libraries have access to reliable, affordable, secure and flexible storage for their digital content via the **Ontario Library Research Cloud (OLRC)**. This cloud services is a distributed object storage network managed by Scholars Portal on behalf of OCUL member libraries. Storage nodes are geographically distributed among 5 data centers located at member institutions across Ontario. Content in the network is replicated automatically among storage nodes at these five data centers.

The OLRC can be used to host video content, long-term storage of archival data and host static website content, removing OCUL member libraries reliance on external services and sites.

Digital Preservation Service

Scholars Portal's helps Ontario's university libraries preserve at risk digital content. In addition to the Scholars Portal certified trustworthy digital repository for OCUL's shared journal content, Scholars Portal is working with member libraries to increase local capacity for digital preservation workflows, and stewardship of important local archival collections.

Permafrost is a cloud-hosted digital preservation service currently under development in collaboration with Lakehead University Library. Once launched, Permafrost will provide the preservation processing system Archivematica in conjunction with OCUL's cloud storage network, the Ontario Library Research Cloud.



Permafrost digital preservation service workflow workflow

The OCUL Community

Collaboration with staff at member institutions is key to ensuring Scholars Portal and OCUL services fit the needs of local users. Throughout the year OCUL and Scholars Portal host and attend events that put Ontario's libraries in touch with each other and celebrate our collective achievements.

In 2017, Scholars Portal and OCUL staff took to the road to visit member libraries and talk to library staff about their needs. The Roadshow saw 13 events across the province connecting over 300 librarian and library staff from our member institutions. Scholars Portal also had the opportunity to connect directly with Canada's researchers as exhibitors in May at the *2017 Congress for the Humanities and Social Sciences* at Ryerson University.

Staff at Ontario's university libraries are constantly collaborating through the OCUL Communities. These communities of interest are forums for information exchange, incubators for innovation in library services, and opportunities to improve individual and shared infrastructure for existing and emerging initiatives. The OCUL Historical Topographic Maps Digitization project is a great example of how these communities innovate to expand library services.

Top to bottom: *Ask a Librarian/Clavardez avec nos bibliothécaires celebration at OLA Superconference 2017; Scholars Portal and OCUL buttons at Congress 2017; Scholars Portal Roadshow visits York University Libraries.*

Collaborative Futures

The vision of a single shared bibliographic service for Ontario's universities was a central goal of OCUL when it was established in 1967. While this has yet to be realized, we are closer to it now than ever thanks to the Collaborative Futures initiative.

Members of the Collaborative Futures Project Team at OLA Superconference 2017.

A Shared System

OCUL's Collaborative Futures foresees the implementation of a Shared Library Services Platform (LSP) among 13 of OCUL 21 member institutions. This will allow for improved management and preservation and of library collections, streamlined internal operations, improved discovery of and access to these collections, and increased support for the educational and research needs of students and faculty at Ontario's university libraries.

In the long term, Collaborative Futures see Ontario's university library users experiencing a large, diverse, Ontario-wide library collection rather than solely the collections at their specific institutions. They move seamlessly between different types of content (electronic and print, books and journals, and content yet to be imagined) using multiple interoperable platforms from anywhere in the world. Users have access to more books and specialized content than ever before, and these resources are incorporated into their research, learning, and teaching.

A Network of Professionals

The vision behind Collaborative Futures also sees OCUL library employees working in an environment in which collaborative work is a given—they are part of a network and work naturally within it. They collaborate routinely with staff at other OCUL libraries, are familiar with Ontario-wide standards and policies, and may be doing work on local projects or on behalf of another institution for the good of the OCUL community.

This collaborative work is already underway with the multi-institutional Collaborative Futures project and system selection teams. Local systems implementation teams will also work in tandem and share expertise as the shared Library Services Platform is established.

Looking forward this province-wide network will develop shared policies, practices and workflows that will result in even deeper collaboration amongst Ontario's university libraries.

This initiative builds upon 50 years of successful cooperative work among OCUL member libraries to ensure Ontario's university libraries are well placed to support students, faculty and researchers in the years to come.

ocul.on.ca

John Barnett,
Executive Director
+1 416-946-0578

130 St. George St
Toronto, ON
M5S 1A5

ocul@ocul.on.ca

@scholarsportal

Cover: Wilfrid Laurier University Library staff member working at Circulation Desk (1984-1988), Wilfrid Laurier University Archives & Special Collections; Brock University Library Circulation Desk (2016), Brock University; Scholars Portal Buttons (2017), Sabina Pagotto for Scholars Portal; OCUL Directors (2017), Ontario Council of University Libraries; Computer keyboard and screen in the Wilfrid Laurier University Library (1981), Wilfrid Laurier University Archives & Special Collections; "Old School" Card Catalogue, (1967), Queen's University Library, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0; Microfilms, (1967), Queen's University Library, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0; "Lakehead Library Interior," Archives & Digital Collections at Lakehead University Library, https://digitalcollections.lakeheadu.ca/document/166.

Editor: Anika Ervin-Ward

Key Contributors: John Barnett, Sabina Pagotto, Jacqueline Cato

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OCUL 50th 1967•2017
Ontario Council of University Libraries

Scholars Portal
A Service of the Ontario Council of University Libraries